

COL Donald K. Brooks

Commander, 1st Space Brigade

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command

COL Donald Brooks is a 1999 graduate of the United States Military Academy where he received a Bachelor of Science and was commissioned in the field artillery. After commissioning, he was assigned as a platoon leader, battery executive officer, and battalion S1 in 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery (MLRS), III Corps Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Following the Field Artillery Advanced Course, he was assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3d Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as a Fire Direction officer, assistant battalion S3, battalion S3, and Alpha Battery commander in 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery (M109A6), and Squadron Fire Support officer in 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry. He has operational deployments to Operation Desert Spring and Operation Iraqi Freedom I, III, and V.



COL Brooks accessed as a space operations officer in 2008. In 2009, he was assigned to the Joint Navigation Warfare Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, where he served as the Warfighter Support Division chief and the director of operations). Assigned to Special Operations Command – South in January 2014, COL Brooks served as the Special Technical Operations chief, Joint Effects Division chief, and as the J35 Future Operations Division chief overseeing all non-lethal effects and future Special Operations in the United States Southern Command's area of responsibility. From July 2017 to June 2019, he commanded the 1st Space Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado. Most recently, COL Brooks established U.S. Space Command's Space-Integrated Planning Elements at both USSOCOM and USCENCOM.

COL Brooks holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the United States Military Academy and a master's degree in Earth remote sensing/hyperspectral imagery from the Florida Institute of Technology. His military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, Joint Professional Military Education, Space Operations Officer Transition Course, Special Technical Operations Course, Space 200/300, and the U.S. Army War College as a Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Joint Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Combat Action Badge, Army Master Space Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

COL Brooks is married, and they have one child.

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